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Readings Booklet CANADIANA

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# Grade 9 Achievement Test

# English Language Arts Part B: Reading

June 1994





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## **Grade 9 Achievement Test**

### **English Language Arts**

Part B: Reading

### Readings Booklet

#### Description

**Part B: Reading** of the Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Test has 2 booklets:

- •the Readings Booklet contains 8 reading selections and 3 visuals,
- •the Questions Booklet contains 65 questions.

#### Instructions

Be sure that you have a **Readings Booklet**, a **Questions Booklet**, and an **Answer Sheet**.

The instructions for writing the test are included in the Questions Booklet.



I. Sometimes, trying to start a new relationship can be a difficult experience. Read how one young man managed this challenge in "The Phone Call" and answer questions 1 to 8 from your Questions Booklet.

#### THE PHONE CALL

"Hello?"

"Hello, Noreen. Guess who this is."

No, that wouldn't work. That's too childish. I want her to think I'm mature. Besides, what if she guesses wrong? I'll have to try something else.

"Hello?"

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"Hello. Is Noreen there?"

That's no good, either. What if her mother answered? I'd want her to think I'm polite. Let's see.

"Hello, may I please speak to Noreen?"

10 "This is Noreen."

"Hi, Noreen. This is Sam."

"Sam? Sam who?"

Sam who? She's got to know who I am. I mean, she's new at school, but she's been here a month now, and we're in the same homeroom and the same biology class. Besides, I'm the only guy in homeroom on the junior football team.

biology class. Besides, I'm the only guy in homeroom on the junior football team. She's got to know who I am. But what if she doesn't? Let's see.

"Hello, Noreen. This is Sam Jenkins."

"Sam who?"

"Sam Jenkins. We're in the same homeroom. I sit near the windows. Mr.

20 Mickle always makes me empty the wastebasket for him every morning."

"Oh, hi, Sam. How are you?"

"Great, thanks. How are you?"

Wait. If I say I'm great, will she think I'm stuck up? I don't want her to think I'm stuck up. I'm fine. That's it. I'll say I'm fine. No, that's too dull, boring.

25 Most people say they're fine. I have to say something original. I'll say I'm . . . smooth. No, that's too cool, and I'm not that cool. I need something more natural, more like me.

Nervous, that's it. I'll tell her I've never called up a girl before, and I'm nervous. She'll appreciate my honesty, and she'll feel so sorry for me that she'll

30 be really nice. No, that's pity, and I don't want pity. If I'm going to ask her to this dance, I've got to be confident. I have to act as if I know what I'm doing. I'll say I'm...okay. Yeah, that's it for sure. I'm okay—not too cool and not conceited.

"I'm okay, Noreen."

All right, what's next? Do I ask her out right away, or do I make small talk? If I ask her out right away, maybe I'll seem too anxious, too desperate. I need

something else. Let's see.

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"Noreen, do you know what the homework is for biology tomorrow?"

Biology. Should I ask about biology, or will she think I'm a nerd? I don't know. She's pretty smart, and she might think I'm the intellectual type if I ask her about schoolwork. It will show that I'm serious about my education. But if I'm serious about my education, why don't I have the biology assignment?

Football. I'll ask her if she's going to the game on Saturday. No, I can't do that. I can't say anything about the game until I ask her to the Graduation Dance. If she says no to that, I can forget about taking her to the game. If she says no,

what do I do then? Do I hang up? Do I tell her to take a hike?

Ah, she won't say no. She's too new. She doesn't know anybody yet. Even if she doesn't want to go out with me, she'll say yes, and once she says yes, once she gets to know me, she'll be in love. She'll want me to sit with her at lunch. She'll come to the football games to watch me play, and she'll hang around

50 She'll come to the football games to watch me play, and she'll hang around afterward and wait for me. Yeah, she'll definitely say yes. She's got to.

Okay, forget football. How about this?

"Noreen, I was wondering if you could recommend a good book for me for my book report."

That's perfect. She's always reading some kind of paperback book in homeroom, and I've seen her in the library a lot. Yeah, I'll ask her to give me some ideas. We'll discuss books for a while. Then I'll switch the conversation over to movies, where I'll be more at home.

All right, books, movies . . . then what? I wonder if I should write all this down so I won't forget. Nah, that's stupid. I'll wing it. I'll be all right. Okay, after the small talk I'll ask her to the dance.

"Noreen, how would you like to share an evening in paradise with me?" No, I'm just kidding. I've got to relax.

"Noreen, I was wondering if you'd like to go to the Graduation Dance with me."

I was wondering. That's the same thing I said about the book report. No, I've got to come up with something better.

"Noreen, what are you doing Friday night?"

Nope, that's not very cool. I saw that in "Dear Abby." You can't beat around the bush. You've got to come right out with it.

"Noreen, would you like to go to the Graduation Dance with me?"

"Oh, Sam, I'd love to. I was hoping you'd ask me."

Once she says yes, I can relax. Then we can talk about anything. I'll call her every night. We'll go out every weekend. She'll invite me over for dinner.

Okay, here goes. Relax. Dial her number. That's right. Now remember what you have to say.

"Hello, may I please speak to Noreen?"

"I'm sorry. Noreen just went to bed. You'll have to call back tomorrow."

Jim LaBate

## II. Read "The Clippers" and answer questions 9 to 13 from your Questions Booklet.

## "THE CLIPPERS" —from The Romance of Sail

The clippers, the most dramatic of the sailing breed, were of a multiplicity of types and rigs. An early version was the three-masted Baltimore clipper: later came the Blackwell frigates, tall barques, schooners and full-rigged ships. One factor, though, singles out the archetypal clipper—its long, narrow, racing lines. For the clippers depended on speed above all else, even cargo capacity, for their success. Literally, they "clipped" the wind. If a clipper was to be profitable, it had to be faster than its competitors, which by the 1850s included power-ships of increasing reliability and greater capacity.

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A major event that spurred clipper development came in 1849 when the British Navigation Acts were repealed, so opening up a previously closed-shop trade to all comers. The Americans were quick to assert their interest, and the efficiency of their merchantmen was soon a byword. The year 1849 was also the year of the California gold rush, when it seemed there were never enough ships to carry gold-crazed speculators to San Francisco. Meanwhile, the Far East was fountainhead to a bustling tea trade as well as a less creditable traffic in opium; and, at the same time, the Australian wool trade was expanding. Everything conspired to make the dashing clipper the ideal vessel for the times—so long as it could keep up its own searing pace . . . 97 days from Hong Kong to London; Melbourne to Liverpool in 63 days; Newcastle, New South Wales to Shanghai in 28 days; Foochow to Gravesend, against the monsoon, in 91 days; Boston Light to Liverpool in 13 days, 19 and 1/2 hours; 702 kilometres in a day's run. The mood of the competitors was at times closer to hysteria than commercial enthusiasm, and no ships were driven harder than the clippers; many were commanded by

In the end, it was the desperate search for extra speed that undermined the clippers' position and hastened their demise. To achieve a faster shape, their lines were progressively reduced until they had become overbred for their function: eventually too narrow to carry enough wool or tea for the prices their owners could get, they found their market deserting them. There was no scope for a comeback; the march of steam was irreversible. And so the slender "China birds," the "ghosters," as they had been known in their prime, slid away to extinction.

rampaging captains and sadistic mates, suitably named Bully This and Bully That.

Michael Leitch

III. Read "The Flood-Tide" and answer questions 14 to 22 from your Questions Booklet.

#### THE FLOOD-TIDE

He paused a moment by the sea,
Then stooped, and with a leisured hand
He wrote in casual tracery
Her name upon the flux of sand.

The waves beat up and swiftly spun
 A silver web at every stride;
 He watched their long, thin fingers run
 The letters back into the tide.

But she had written where the tide
Could never its grey waters fling;
She watched the longest wave subside
Ere it could touch the lettering.

E. J. Pratt

IV. Examine this cartoon and answer questions 23 to 25 from your Questions Booklet.



## V. Read the excerpt from "Nellie McClung: A Patient Suffragist" and answer questions 26 to 34 from your Questions Booklet.

#### **NELLIE McCLUNG: A PATIENT SUFFRAGIST\***

Nellie McClung became interested in women's rights and a group called the WCTU, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, after many discussions with her mother-in-law. Her first efforts to gain signatures on a petition for women's rights ended the way her first touch with politics ended—with people laughing at her.

Unwilling to allow failure to deter her, however, Nellie McClung turned to writing. Her mother-in-law encouraged her to submit a short story to a magazine contest by doing her housework for her. She received favourable comments for her story from the magazine (but not the prize) and as a result she expanded her story into her first book, *Sowing Seeds in Danny*. The book became a runaway bestseller in 1908 and sold well over 100,000 copies. Suddenly Nellie McClung had become a name to watch.

Although Nellie already had a family of four sons and a daughter, she turned back to some of her earlier concerns. At the turn of the century, women had no right to vote and they also lost control of any money they had when they married. To Nellie McClung and many other women this seemed a grave injustice. Nellie plunged into the suffrage struggle by making countless speeches. "The great army of women workers are ill-paid, badly housed, and their work is not honoured or paid for," she complained. She became an eloquent speaker and slowly the women of Manitoba began to unite in her cause.

Perhaps Nellie McClung's most famous public appearance took place in the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg on January 28, 1914. On that night Nellie staged a mock parliament to poke fun at the Manitoba provincial government's attitude toward women's rights. Nellie reversed the real-life situation on stage and had men begging for the right to vote while she, as premier, refused their questions for the same silly reasons that the government had recently given women. The put-on was brilliant and the show was not only financially successful, it also made the cause of women's rights known and acceptable to many. Nellie McClung used laughter as her lever and the Walker Theatre was filled with converts. In 1916, in Manitoba, the women's suffrage bill was passed in the legislature.

Nellie McClung and her family moved further west to Edmonton in 1912, and she immediately set about to improve the rights of women in Alberta. Elected to the legislature in 1921, she helped women win the right to sit in the Senate, which they hadn't been able to do previously because the word "persons" in the British North America Act of 1867 had been interpreted to mean only "men."

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<sup>\*</sup>Suffragist—someone who worked to get women the right to vote

Nellie continued to write novels of pioneer life on the Prairies. These captured the attention and sympathy of many readers. Her writing also took the form of serious social criticism and her arguments often contained specific attacks on the nature of Canadian society. She spoke harshly about everything from land speculators to charity systems, and suggested full employment and economic security as two of the worthiest goals Canadian society could have. She believed the greatest injustice that had been done to the human race was the economic dependence of women. She believed this had to be rectified.

Terry Angus and Shirley White

VI. In recent years, our relationship with nature has drawn increasing attention. Read the poems "Every Part of This Earth is Sacred" and "Words to a Grandchild," and then answer questions 35 to 43 from your Questions Booklet.

#### EVERY PART OF THIS EARTH IS SACRED

Every part of this earth is sacred . . .

Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy . . .

All things are connected.

5 Teach your children that the earth is our mother.

Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth.

This we know: The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know.

Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it.

10 Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

Chief Seattle

#### WORDS TO A GRANDCHILD

Each day brings an hour of magic. Listen to it! Things will whisper their secrets. You will know

- what fills the herbs with goodness,
   makes days change into nights,
   turns the stars
   and brings the change of seasons.
   When you have come to know
- 10 some of nature's wise ways beware of your complacency for you cannot be wiser than nature. You can only be as wise as any man will ever hope to be,
- 15 —if you let it happen.

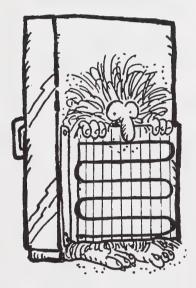
Chief Dan George

## VII. Read the consumer information pamphlet "Look Who's Stealing Your Electricity" and answer questions 44 and 45 from your Questions Booklet.

#### LOOK WHO'S STEALING YOUR ELECTRICITY

#### Take the \$2 bill test

Your refrigerator and oven use a lot of electricity and they can waste a lot too if they don't close properly. Shut the door of each appliance on a \$2 bill. If the bill pulls out easily, cold or hot air can flow out too, adding to your energy costs. The fridge may need a new gasket or the solution may be as simple as making sure the refrigerator is level. You may need to align the oven door, fix the hinges, or replace the gasket. Take the \$2 bill test and don't spend energy dollars you don't have to.



Heavy dust on the refrigerator's coils makes it work harder to keep its cool. A quick vacuuming of the coils behind or underneath the refrigerator can help your fridge last longer and it won't use more energy than it has to. (P.S. The ideal fridge temperature is 3° Celsius.)



Pots and pans that are battered and bent on the bottom, or have a heavy buildup of burnt-on black, use more energy to heat up than flatbottomed, clean utensils. Tightfitting lids, and burners that are the same size or smaller than the pot, also help stop energy waste.

Grease and burnt-on food really reduce your oven's efficiency. A clean oven works better and uses less electricity. Try putting tin foil on the oven bottom. It catches bits of food and grease for easy cleaning and it's a good reflector too.



#### Tune-up, Clean up

It's simple. Clean and well-cared-for appliances last longer and they use less electricity. Over the long run, you can save money on appliance replacement. And of course, the less energy you waste the more dollars you save.

## VIII. Read the excerpt from *The Guardian of Isis* and answer questions 46 to 53 from your Questions Booklet.

#### THE GUARDIAN OF ISIS

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Jody stared at her. He had never really noticed her before. She was a very pretty girl, with black hair in two very long plaits, and brown eyes, very big in a face dusted with freckles. Her blatant admiration warmed him inside. He stuffed another juicy collop of roast meat into his mouth and began to tell her about all the ideas he had had, ideas that had come to nothing because nobody had cared. She listened to him, her eyes wide with admiration, looking down only for more food.

Around them the other eight hundred and twenty-seven inhabitants of Isis ate and drank and laughed, filling the bellies that had shrunk during the long winter's fast until they could feel the skin stretch and hurt. As they ate, Ra's light faded and the sky slowly darkened from green to the blackness of deep space.

Voices became lower. Conversations trailed off unfinished. Greasy mouths and fingers were wiped. Every eye was fixed on the western horizon, as the stars slowly popped out of the darkness like fireflies.

The western rim of the mountains that enclosed the Valley hid the true

15 horizon, but there was a cleft between two peaks, like a child's toothless gap; and
it was on this gap that every eye was fixed. Two stars appeared close together,
white, not very bright. The people watched in silence. At length, as it grew even
darker, a third star appeared, making a small triangle point down in the gap
between the far peaks. Earth! There was a cheer from everyone but the babies,

20 who had long ago fallen asleep on the grass, glutted with food.

Earth! Small, reddish-gold, quite insignificant in a sky that was by now fully jewelled in magnificence. Jody stared up at the tiny point of light. Could it really be true that his very own grandparents, and all the other Councillors and elders, had travelled through the unknowable emptinesses of dark space from that tiny point of light? Could that poor weak dot of light really have been a place to live, a place called Home? Of all the legends and stories that the Council told, . . . this one was the hardest to swallow.

Monica Hughes

# IX. Use the following "Summary of the Dewey Decimal Classification System" to answer questions 54 to 57 from your Questions Booklet.

Summary of the Dewey Decimal Classification System		<ul> <li>600 Technology</li> <li>610 Medicine &amp; health</li> <li>620 Engineering</li> <li>621.3 Electrical engineering. Electronics</li> </ul>	
		629.2	Cars & trucks
000	General Works	635	Gardening
	Bibliography. Library science	636	Animals & pets
030	Encyclopedias	640	Home & family care
060	General Organizations	641.5	Cookbooks
070	Journalism & publishing	643	Home Improvements
070	Journalism & publishing	645	Home furnishings
100	Philosophy & psychology	650	Business
110/120	Philosophical topics	657	Accounting
130	Popular psychology	658	Management
133	Occult. Astrology	665	
150	Psychology		Oil & gas industries
160/170	Reasoning. Ethics	690	Buildings & construction
180	Early philosophy	700	Arts
190	Modern Western philosophy	709	Art history
		710	Landscaping
200	Religion	728	Houses & plants
210	General religious thought	740	Drawing. Decorative & minor arts
220	Bible	745.5	Handicrafts
230/280	Christianity	747	
	Christian living	750	Interior decorating
260	Church life & action		Painting
270	Church history	760	Graphic arts
280	Christian churches & related groups	770	Photography
290	Other religions. Mythology	780	Music
200	Other religious. Wrythology	790	Theatre
300	Social sciences	791.4	Films & television
301/309	Social activities & institutions	793	Games
310	Statistics	796	Sports
320	Politics & government	800	Literature
320.971	Canadian politics	808.5	
332	Money & Investments		Public Speaking
340	Law	808.6	Collections. Quotations
360	Social problems & services	810	American literature
370	Education	819	Canadian literature
391	Costume	819.1	Canadian poetry
395	Etiquette	819.2	Canadian plays
398	Folklore & fairy tales	820	English literature
370	Polkiole & fally tales	840	French literature
400	Languages & dictionaries	830/890	Other literature
420	English	900	T
460	German. Scandinavian	900	Travel & geography
440	French	010	Biography & history
450	Italian. Romanian, etc.	910	General geography & travel
460	Spanish. Portuguese	912	Atlases
470	Italian. Latin	917.1	Travel—Canada
480	Greek		Biography
490		929	Genealogy. Names. Flags
770	Slavic. Native. Other languages	930	History—Ancient World History—Europe
500	Science	940	History—Europe
510	Mathematics	940.3	World War I
520	Astronomy (Stars & planets)	940.53	World War II
537	Electricity & electronics	950	History—Asia
550	Earth sciences (Earth, rocks & minerals)	960	
570	Life sciences	970	History—Africa History—North America
570 574	Biology	971	History—Canada
574 580		971.2	History—Western Canada
	Botany (Plants)	971.23	History—Alberta
	Zoology (Animals)		Thoroty—Alberta
590		080	History South America
590		980 990	History—South America History—Australia, New Zealand, Other

## X. Read "Sarah Tops" and answer questions 58 to 64 from your Questions Booklet.

#### **SARAH TOPS**

I came out of the Museum of Natural History and was crossing the street on my way to the subway, when I saw the crowd about halfway down the block; and the police cars, too. I could hear the whine of an ambulance.

For a minute, I hesitated, but then I walked on. The crowds of the curious just get in the way of officials trying to save lives. Dad, who's a detective on the force, complains about that all the time.

I just kept my mind on the term paper I was going to have to write on air pollution for my eighth-grade class, and mentally arranged the notes I had taken during the museum program on the subject.

10 Of course, I knew I would read about it in the afternoon papers. Besides, I would ask Dad about it after dinner. He sometimes talked about cases without telling too much of the real security details.

After I asked, Mom looked kind of funny and said, "The man was in the museum when he was killed."

I said, "I was working on my term paper. I was there first thing in the morning."

Mom looked very worried. "There might have been shooting in the museum."

"Well, there wasn't," said Dad, soothingly. "This man tried to lose himself there and he didn't succeed."

20 "I would have," I said. "I know the museum, every inch."

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Dad doesn't like me bragging, so he frowned a little and said, "They didn't let him get away entirely—caught up with him outside, knifed him, and got away. We'll catch them, though. We know who they are."

He nodded his head. "They're what's left of the gang that broke into that jewelry store two weeks ago. We managed to get the jewels back, but we didn't grab all the men. And not all the jewels either. One diamond was left. A big one—worth \$30,000."

"Maybe that's what the killers were after," I said.

"Very likely. The dead man was probably trying to cross the other two and get away with that one stone for himself. They turned out his pockets and practically ripped off his clothes, after they knifed him."

"Did they get the diamond?" I asked.

"How can we tell? The woman who reported the killing came on him when he was still just barely alive. She said he said three words to her, very slowly, 'Try—Sarah—Tops.' Then he died."

"Who is Sarah Tops?" asked Mom.

Continued

Dad shrugged. "I don't know. I don't even know if that's really what he said. The woman was pretty hysterical. If she's right and that's what he said then maybe the killers didn't get the diamond. Maybe the dead man left it with Sarah Tops, whoever she is. Maybe he knew he was dying and wanted to have it off his conscience."

"Is there a Sarah Tops in the phone book, Dad?" I asked.

Dad said, "Did you think we didn't look? No Sarah Tops, either one *P* or two *P*s. Nothing in the city directory. Nothing in our files. Nothing in the FBI files."

45 Mom said, "Maybe it's not a person. Maybe it's a firm. Sarah Tops Cakes or something."

"Could be," said Dad. "There's no Sarah Tops firm, but there are other types of Tops companies and they'll be checked for anyone working there named Sarah."

I got an idea suddenly and bubbled over. "Listen, Dad, maybe it isn't a firm either. Maybe it's a *thing*. Maybe the woman didn't hear 'Sarah Tops' but 'Sarah's top'; you know, *top* that you spin. If the dead guy has a daughter named Sarah, maybe he gouged a bit out of her top and stashed the diamond inside and—"

Dad grinned. "Very good, Larry," he said. "But he doesn't have a daughter named Sarah. Or any relative by that name as far as we know. We've searched where he lived and there's nothing reported there that can be called a top."

"Well," I said, sort of let down and disappointed, "I suppose that's not such a good idea anyway, because why should he say we ought to *try* it? He either hid it in Sarah's top or he didn't. He would know which. Why should he say we should *try* it?"

And then it hit me. What if—

I said, "Dad, can you get into the museum this late?"

"On police business? Sure."

65 "Dad," I said, kind of breathless, "I think we better go look. *Now*. Before the people start coming in again."

"Why?"

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"I've got a silly idea. I—I—"

Dad didn't push me. He likes me to have my own ideas. He thinks maybe I'll be a detective too, some day. He said, "All right. Let's follow up your lead."

We got there just when the last purple bit of twilight was turning to black. We were let in by a guard.

I'd never been in the museum when it was dark. It looked like a huge, underground cave, with the guard's flashlight seeming to make things even more mysterious.

We took the elevator up to the fourth floor, where the big shapes loomed in the bit of light that shone this way and that as the guard moved his flash. "Do you want me to put on the light in this room?" he asked.

Continued

"Yes, please," I said.

There they all were. Some in glass cases; but the big ones in the middle of the large room. Bones and teeth and spines of giants that ruled the earth, millions of years ago. I said, "I want to look close at that one. Is it all right if I climb over the railing?"

"Go ahead," said the guard. He helped me.

I leaned against the platform, looking at the grayish plaster material the skeleton was standing on.

"What's this?" I said. It didn't look much different in color from the plaster.

"Chewing gum," said the guard, frowning. "Those darn kids—"

I said, "The guy was trying to get away and he saw his chance to throw this— 90 hide it from the gang—"

Dad took the gum from me, squeezed it, and then pulled it apart. Inside, something caught the light and flashed. Dad put it in an envelope and said to me, "How did you know?"

I said, "Well, look at it."

95 It was a magnificent skeleton. It had a large skull with bone stretching back over the neck vertebrae. It had two horns over the eyes, and a third one, just a bump, on the snout. The nameplate said: Triceratops.

Isaac Asimov

XI. Examine "Tribute to Henry Ford 1, 2, 3," and answer question 65 from your Questions Booklet.

Trib	ute to Henry	Ford 1	Tribu	te to H	lenry F	Ford 2			
	т Т Т Т Т	T T T T T T T T T	A A A	A A A	A	A A A A A			
Tribute to Henry Ford 3									

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